(c) the number of vacancies of different cadres in different Zonal railways which have not been filled for nearly one year; and

(d) the steps taken to fill these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) In the news item which appeared in the Indian Express on 10.4.90 under the caption "Railwaymen demand wage policy" it has been mentioned *inter-alia* that trains were being run without guards and Ticket windows without clerks in the name of the economy and manpower productivity. This news item purports to be a report relating to the two day convention at Mathura of the National Federation of Indian Railwaymen.

(b) to (d) There is no ban as such on filling vacancies. The occurrence and filling of vacancies is a continued process. Hence it would not be correct to say that vacancies are kept merely to achieve economy and improve labour productivity.

The information regarding vacancies existing for more than one year as on 1-4-1990 in the categories of guards and Booking Clerks, is being collected from the Zonal Railways and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Opening of more Fair Price Shops in Rajasthan.

231. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of fair price shops in Rajasthan; and

(b) what is the total number of fair price shops in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) The opening of new fair price shops in the respective areas is the concern of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Rajasthan Government has opened 221 new fair price shops during April to December, 1989.

(b) A statement giving the total number of fair price shops in the country, Statewise, is anexed.

Statement

Information regarding number of Fair Price Shops.

(As on 30-9-1989)

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of FPS	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35443	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	530	
3.	Assam	24175	
4.	Bihar	39627	(Relates to March 1988)
5.	Gujarat	11982	
6.	Goa	547	

S. No.	State/Union Territory	Number of FPS	
7.	Haryana	6527	
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3124	
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2578	
10.	Karnataka	16660	
11.	Kerala	12945	
12.	Madhya Pradesh	22482	
13.	Maharashtra	34636	
14.	Manipur	1652	
15.	Meghalaya	2835	
16.	Mizoram	762	
17.	Nagaland	305	(Relates to March 1989)
18.	Orissa	20992	
19.	Punjab	10768	(Relates to December, 1988)
20.	Rajasthan	14199	(Relates to March, 1989)
21.	Sikkim	1203	(Relates to June, 1989.)
22.	Tamil Nadu	21141	
23.	Tripura	1146	
24.	Uttar Pradesh	46382	
25.	West Bengal	19900	(Relates to June, 1989)
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	261	
27.	Chandigarh	300	
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	57	
29.	Delhi	3514	
30.	Daman and Diu	35	
31.	Lakshadweep	30	
32.	Pondicherry	327	
	TOTAL	357065	